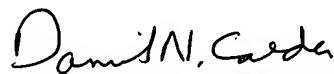


**Remarks/Arguments:**

By this Second Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 29, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 45, and 46. Applicants have also canceled claims 30 and 40. Claims 29, 31-39, and 41-46 are pending.

Early examination and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants

DNC/kak

Dated: March 5, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

March 5, 2004  
Jerry M. Miller

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